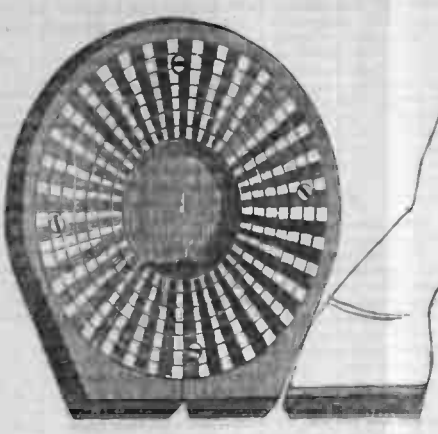
LIVERPOOL DOCKS.

Two weeks ago, we gave information of the intention of the Dock Estate Committee, under the advice of Mr. Hartley, the eminent engineer of the port, to make great enlargement for the reception of a certain class of vessels, and we did so with a feeling of gratification at the prospect it held out of large employment for building artificers. We are not now called to consider the matter as less promising in this respect, and therefore it may be urged against us that we ought not to interfere on any other ground; that so long as a plan was likely to be acted upon to ensure the expenditure of a large sum of money in building operations, it made no matter to us how, or by whom it was spent; that whether the docks were to be built on the Liverpool side of the Mersey, as was then reported by us, or on the Cheshire side at Birkenhead, occupying Wallasey Pool, now announced as projected, it mattered nothing to builders, or us who represent them. We see things, however with a different eye, and beg to demur to this line of reasoning; this is not the first occasion for our insisting upon the necessity of the architect and builder exercising a higher and nobler than the mere selfish faculty of the shop; he must feel the dignity of the citizen, and, seeking to enjoy his privileges as such, must not shrink from the performance of its duties.

It is in this spirit that with us he will join in a view of this subject of the Liverpool *versus* the Wallasey Pool Docks. It is undoubtedly in a bold spirit that the latter project is conceived, and if carried out, would probably lead to an expenditure of almost incalculable amount in docks, roads, warehouses, streets,—in short, a city,—but all is not gain that appears such. Liverpool will probably lose in a ratio corresponding with the other's gain; and so far, many would argue, the matter would be balanced. But it is not so; great cities cannot suffer loss and decay without peril of decrepitude and death; and what compensation would it be to call into life new interests, if it can only be done at the expense and cost of swamping an old and important one? Let us put the case strongly, and, we admit, in an extreme point of view,—let us suppose that half a million men could be called into being, and set to flourish among us as building craftsmen. If this, however, is to be done at the expense of the half-million now flourishing in that way, what humane, what sane man, would encourage such a proposition? Exactly so we view this Wallasey Pool speculation, and so, we trust, it will be viewed by the legislature. It would, if sanctioned, be a great practical working of the problem of "robbing Peter to pay Paul."

To those who do not know Liverpool so well as we do, it may be necessary to explain that the Mersey is not like the Thames, and yet not altogether unlike it. The Mersey is greatly wider and not to be spanned across by a bridge; the opposite shore of Cheshire cannot be united to that of Liverpool, as the opposite banks of the Thames are—in fact, it would be like a union at a point below—say of Gravesend and Tilbury Fort. Liverpool has had its millions spent upon its docks, and no one needs to be told of the general consequence and wealth of that town; any project, therefore, which threatens the impoverishment of the second city of the empire, must be regarded as threatening a national catastrophe, and we are surprised that it is not so viewed by all parties in Liverpool. We consider it would be more fatal to remove the docks of Liverpool in the way proposed, or to set up an opposition interest, than it would be here in London to form a large dock accommodation at Greenwich or Woolwich for the same objects as the East or West India and St. Katherine's Docks.

Besides this, Birkenhead and Woodside, on the Cheshire side of the Mersey, are designed for different ends, now especially that Liverpool *is made*. They are formed for the country resorts of Liverpool merchants, as the appropriate counterpart of the busy and crowded resorts of traffic on the opposite shore. We do indeed sincerely trust that no scheme of so suicidal a tendency will be supported by the people of Liverpool. We know nothing of, and feel no interest in any speculation, but for the reasons given we deprecate the farther prosecution of this affair, and hope speedily to hear of its abandonment.



HORSE-SHOE APPLICABLE TO WOOD PAVEMENTS.

SIR,—Permit me to offer to your readers a drawing (I cannot call it a drawing), but what I wish to represent is a shoe to fit the hoof, which being the broadest at the bottom, would require the shoe to open and close again, with a joint at the tip, and to fasten behind with a screw or rivet passing transversely through it, with a rim round it, to receive a plate or sub-shoe, which is marked circular with radiating lines, which I mean shall form teeth, or rather so many serrated or toothed projections, all increasing in size at the base from the centre, but all to be of one height, so that being radiating, the inner ones will of course be more tapering than the outer ones. The screw which fastens the outer to the inner shoe, should be better arranged than my rough sketch represents, for you will perceive that one of these is shewn to screw exactly into the joint.

I remain, Sir,
Your humble and obliged servant,
THOMAS REX.

MEMORIALS OF THE DEAD.

Is there, in this age of criticism and cavil, any reader of our Journal disposed to question the propriety of ascribing the earliest known efforts in architecture to commemorative purposes? If so, he is referred to monuments which still bound the horizon of time; those pyramidal masses erected in the first ages by a race who, in all things, aimed at perpetuating a name; the sons of Cush! who, in fulfilment of the divine fiat of dispersion, were scattered over the earth, but carried with them from Babel, predilections for vastness in structure exemplified in exact accordance with appliances induced by settled forms of government, and a cultivation of the arts.

The altar, the temple, and tomb, have always been objects of solicitude and of subsequent interest; and this, it would appear, not from mere caprice or influence of the inferior conceptions or faculties of our nature, but as resulting from an inherent and constantly operating law of mind. Jacob, while yet a wanderer in tents, consecrated a pillar the first monument on record—the spot where reposed his beloved Rachael. Thenceforward may be traced the erection of monolithic memorials in the times and countries of the patriarchal families, while, perhaps, the Egyptian and other Eastern dynasties were already maturing and consolidating those astounding energies of which evidences remain; and in which we recognize the supremacy of feelings participated in by all mankind. The sculptured and painted tombs of the Thebais; the cavern sepulchres and rock-inscriptions of India and Persia; the Celtic cairn and barrow, and the tumuli of early contested battle-fields, are yet enduring proofs of the solicitude of the living to perpetuate the memory of the dead. With the motives and devices of the builders the vicissitudes of time have strangely interfered. The Eastern sepulchres, unfaithful to their trust, have yielded to the cupidity and desecration of the alien and stranger, while the rude Druidical mound still covers remains over which the wild flowers of two thousand summers have shed their blossoms.

No superstructure remains to mark the burial-places of the Roman occupiers of Britain; but the funeral urn and broken tablet occasionally turned up prove to us their modes of inhumation, and the sites where the precursors of civilization paid the tribute exacted alike from the victor and the vanquished. It does not appear that the Roman practice of burning the dead was ever adopted by the Britons, who preserved their ancient modes of interment, the body being enveloped in tenacious clay, and laid with the head towards the north. The Saxon rule, of a more permanent character, and contemporary with the establishment of Christianity, broke down the more barbarous native customs; while religion, pointing always to futurity, originated and cherished those ceremonials which sanctify the last resting place of mortality, and teach the living supplicant for grace and mercy to remember in his appeals those who have preceded him to the tomb. Few, if any, monuments of an enduring kind were erected during the early Saxon era; later, when religious houses had multiplied, the churches of the great abbeys were no doubt depositories of the remains of the kings and magnates of the land. The general dissolution which destroyed those structures overthrew at once the noblest examples of ancient skill, the best evidences of gradations in the arts of building and sculpture, and obliterated without remorse every vestige that piety or affection had consecrated to the dead. Subsequently, to parochial churches, the tombs of founders or benefactors ceased to excite even the colder sensation of duty for their preservation, and numerous monuments of surpassing interest have been walled up, built over, or suffered to moulder to utter decay. In this department of antiquarian research, the best authorities agree that scattered remains, still asserted to be those of Saxon times and kings, prior to the tenth century, are spurious; *Gough*, an authority of great weight on this subject, says the figure of Ailwyn, who founded Ramsay Abbey, A.D. 969, is one of the oldest genuine sepulchral monuments among us, and almost the only remains of that rich house, where it now (1784) lies neglected in a yard! It is habited in a kind of mantel, buskins, and pileus; the right hand holds two keys and a ragged staff, the left lies on the breast; on the top of the Gothic arch, over the figure, is a representation of two angels receiving the spirit of the deceased. Ailwyn is styled Duke, or Earl of the East Angles, and Alderman of all England. The Cromwells converted the abbey house into a

To learn about OCR and PDF Compression go to ThePaperlessOffice.org